

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05846 020510Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

IO-10 /079 W

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P 011610Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9871

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 5846

EO 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR, CSCE, GR

SUBJ: GREEK PRESS REACTION TO HELSINKI SUMMIT

REF ATHENS 5808

1. THE HELSINKI SUMMIT CONTINUES TO GET MAJOR
COVERAGE IN THE GREEK PRES.

2. MUCH OF THE COVERAGE ON AUG 1 WAS GENERATED BY
TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S SPEECH AND ACTIVITIES,
INCLUDING HIS WALK OUT WHILE ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS WAS SPEAKING.
THE GREEK PRESS INTERPRETS THE SPEECH AND THE WALK OUT AS A
"PROVOCATION" AND EVIDENCE OF FURTHER HARDENING OF THE
TURKISH POSITION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE.

3. ALL PAPERS NOTED THAT DEMIREL MET WITH BREZHNEV. TWO
PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS GAVE IT MAJOR PLAY, CHARACTERIZING
IT AS A "FLIRTATION" BY AN EMBITTERED TURKEY REACTING TO
THE CONTINUED US ARMS EMBARGO. ALL AFTERNOON PAPERS
CARRY THE REPORT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO OFFER
TURKEY HELICOPTERS.

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4. DEMIREL'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD WAS ALSO

WIDELY REPORTED, AS WERE THE TURKISH PM'S POST MEETING REMARKS TO THE PRESS. SEVERAL PAPERS HAVE INTERPRETED THESE COMMENTS AS INDICATING HIS ACTIONS AGAINST US BASES IN TURKEY MAY BE "TEMPORARY".

5. PAPERS HAVE ALSO REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS MET WITH THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF WHAT MAY HAVE TRANSPIRED AT THEIR MEETING.

6. THE PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO REPORT ON PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' ACTIVITIES AND BILATERAL MEETINGS.

7. SEVERAL PAPERS CONTINUE TO REPORT ON THE EC-NINE OFFER TO PLAY A MEDIATOR'S ROLE IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION. HOWEVER, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SOME SPECULATION THAT THE TURKS WILL TURN DOWN THE OFFER. TWO PAPERS CARRY REPORTS, WHICH HAVE APPEARED BEFORE, ABOUT THE FRG'S DESIRE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS CONNECTION.
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NNN

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